

rise, as I trust they will, to give some sort of explanation to the House of their extraordinary conduct, and it is that for my part I am prepared to grant—and I hope and I believe my friends are prepared to grant—the fullest consideration to the present first Minister, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, who, whatever his faults and sins may be, appears, so far as we can see, to have acted straightforwardly under very difficult circumstances indeed.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 3.50 p.m.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, 8th January, 1896.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

### NEW MEMBER.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, a certificate of the election and return :

Of Napoléon Charbonneau, for the Electoral District of Jacques Cartier.

### MEMBER INTRODUCED.

Napoléon Charbonneau, Esquire, Member for the Electoral District of Jacques Cartier, introduced by Mr. Laurier and Mr. Tarte.

### FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 4) respecting the liability of Her Majesty and public companies for labour used in the construction of public works.—(Mr. McLennan.)

Bill (No. 5) to amend "The Dairy Products Act."—(Mr. McLennan.)

Bill (No. 6) respecting the sale of railway return-fare tickets.—(Mr. McLennan.)

Bill (No. 7) respecting the Senate and House of Commons.—(Mr. Mulock.)

Bill (No. 8) respecting interest.—(Mr. Mulock.)

### MINISTERIAL RESIGNATIONS.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I take it that the House will expect some information in relation to the announcement which I made yesterday. I then had the

honour of asking the House to consent to an adjournment for ten days. It was refused, and I had to give notice of motion, and that motion will come up only on to-morrow. I am not in a position to-day to say anything more to the House than I said yesterday, except, that the Prime Minister is now with His Excellency the Governor General, and of course, I can make no further announcement. I would again ask the House if the motion which I made yesterday can be agreed to, and if not, it will of course come up in the regular order to-morrow. I move, Mr. Speaker, that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. LAURIER. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my hon. friend (Sir Adolphe Caron) remembers that yesterday he stated that at the next sitting of the House (that is the way he put it) he expected to be in a position to declare to the House the course which the Government intended to take under existing circumstances.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. My expectations have been disappointed.

Mr. LAURIER. Yes, and in more ways than one, perhaps. Under such circumstances the hon. gentleman will not find it extraordinary, if again I cannot agree to an adjournment for ten days. The hon. gentleman will see that it is most reasonable that we should not separate, at all events for such a length of time, until we have been informed of the intentions of the Government in reference to the present state of affairs. The hon. gentleman tells us to-day that the Prime Minister is in consultation with His Excellency. That being the case we certainly cannot press for more information, but we will expect it to-morrow.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Mr. Speaker. I think, Sir, that before the motion is carried it is important that the House should give some consideration to the very extraordinary position in which it finds itself on the present occasion. The position, Sir, is certainly a very novel one. I think the hon. gentlemen who occupy the Treasury benches, whether they are in the Government, or outside of the Government, will find very great difficulty in placing before the House a precedent for the present position of affairs. Sir, we have been called together, as we supposed, for the transaction of the public business; but, after having been convened, we find that this is a mistake; we have been called here simply to be spectators of a ministerial crisis, and to see how certain hon. gentlemen who have been members of the Government can succeed in getting rid of their present Prime Minister and substituting another party leader in his place. There was submitted to the House yesterday by the late Minister of Finance, then leader of this House, a declaration setting forth certain